

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** August 6, 2015

**Agenda Item:** 2015-16 Flathead Indian Reservation Pheasant and Gray Partridge Hunting Regulations

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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### **Background**

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the State of Montana have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation that provides for presentation and approval of Tribal bird season frameworks to the FW Commission. Tribal recommendations are first presented to the Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board. The board votes on tentative proposals and opens them to general public review and comment. The board then meets for final adoption. Adopted final proposals are then presented to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council. FWP Commission endorsement is subject to final Tribal Council approval.

The significant differences between these Tribal regulations and the current FWP upland bird regulations are:

- Tribal shooting hours are sunrise to sunset for all pheasant and partridge hunting (no grouse may be taken);
- No hunting with falcons on the Flathead Indian Reservation;
- A requirement that only non-toxic shot be used for all game birds on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal process includes public comment.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

None considered at this time.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

Recommend endorsement of 2015-16 Flathead Indian Reservation Pheasant and Gray Partridge Hunting Regulations subject to Tribal Council approval.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move that the Fish & Wildlife Commission endorse the 2015-16 Flathead Indian Reservation Pheasant and Gray Partridge Hunting Regulations as presented and subject to final Tribal Council approval.